

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS GOLDEN KING CRAB FISHERIES,
1997/98 AND 1998/99
REPORT TO THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

by

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ALEUTIAN ISLANDS GOLDEN KING CRAB

Description of Area

The Aleutian Islands king crab registration area, Area O, consists of all waters east of the longitude of Scotch Cap Light (164° 44' west longitude), west of the U.S.-Russia Convention line of 1867, and south of a line extending west from the latitude of Cape Sarichef (56° 36' north latitude) to 171° west longitude, north to 55° 30' north latitude, and west to the U.S.-Russia Convention line of 1867 (Figure 1).

Historic Background

The golden king crab *Lithodes aequispinus* fishery in the Aleutian Islands is unique among Westward Region king crab fisheries in that it is one of two that have never failed to open due to low stock abundance. In addition, golden king crabs inhabit depths greater than where other commercially exploited king crabs are typically found (Blau et al. 1996). The depths and steep bottom topography in the inter-island passes inhabited by golden king crabs necessitates the use of longline rather than single pot gear in this fishery. There are no other major king crab fisheries in the Westward Region where longlined pot gear is the only legal gear type.

Historically, golden king crabs were taken as incidental by-catch in the Adak (west of 171° west longitude) and Dutch Harbor registration area (east of 171° west longitude) red king crab *Paralithodes camtschaticus* fisheries. One landing of golden king crabs was reported from the Adak area during the 1975/76 season, but directed fishing for golden king crabs did not occur in either management area until the 1981/82 season (ADF&G 1984). From the 1981/82 season until the 1996/97 season, the golden king crab resource in the Aleutian Islands was harvested in two directed fisheries occurring in the Adak (Area R) and Dutch Harbor (Area O) registration areas.

During the 1981/82 season, 14 vessels landed 1.2 million pounds of golden king crabs in 76 deliveries from the Adak area. By the following season, harvest had reached eight million pounds with 99 vessels participating in the fishery. Between 1981 and 1995, an average of 49 vessels participated in the Adak golden king crab fishery, harvesting an average of 6.9 million pounds annually (Table 1, Figure 2). Peak harvest in the Adak fishery occurred during the 1986/87 season when 14.7 million pounds of golden king crabs were harvested for an exvessel value of \$42.7 million (Table 2). No stock assessment of the golden king crab population was performed in the Adak area and the fishery was managed based on size, sex and season restrictions. Catches were monitored in-season (ADF&G 1998). The majority of golden king crabs harvested in the Adak area were taken in the North Adak and Petrel Banks Districts; however, significant harvest also occurred in the Western Aleutian District.

From the 1981/82 season to the 1995/96 season, average weight of golden king crabs harvested in the Adak area fishery declined from 5.1 to 4.2 pounds and catch rate declined from 17 to 5 legal golden king crabs per pot pull (Figure 2). In July of 1985, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) enacted a regulation reducing the minimum legal size for golden king crabs from 6.5 to

6.0 inches in carapace width. Decreasing the legal size for golden king crabs in this area resulted in an expected decrease in average weight of legal crabs harvested and increased catch and catch per pot pull during the 1985/86 and 1986/87 seasons. This regulation change did not, however, reverse the trend of slowly declining catch rates in the area west of 171° west longitude.

Initial catches of golden king crabs in the Dutch Harbor area were similar to those observed in the Adak area fishery (ADF&G 1984). Harvest was incidental to the red king crab fishery and effort in the fishery only increased as red king crab stocks decreased in abundance. Six vessels harvested approximately 115,000 pounds of golden king crabs during the 1981/82 Dutch Harbor red king crab season (Table 1). By the following season, 49 vessels were participating in the directed golden king crab fishery; these vessels accounted for a harvest of 1.2 million pounds of golden king crabs. Between 1981 and 1995, an average of 18 vessels harvested approximately 1.5 million pounds of golden king crabs annually (Figure 3). Peak golden king crab harvest in the Dutch Harbor area occurred during the 1995/96 season when 1.9 million pounds were harvested for an exvessel value of \$5.2 million (Table 2). The Dutch Harbor stock was harvested primarily in the Islands of Four Mountains and Yunaska Island area.

In general, average weight of golden king crabs harvested in the Dutch Harbor area declined during the period 1981 to 1995. Average weight ranged from a high of 7.6 pounds in the 1983/84 season to 4.1 pounds during the 1992/93 season. Fishery performance measured in number of legal golden king crabs per pot pull has slowly declined throughout the history of this fishery. Catch per pot pull reached a peak of 14 legal crabs per pot during the 1984/85 season and was lowest during the 1994/95 season when it was six legal crabs per pot pull (Figure 3). Golden king crabs in the Dutch harbor area were not surveyed for abundance prior to 1991 and the fishery was managed based on a historical average catch of 1.5 million pounds (ADF&G 1998). In 1984, the BOF adopted an Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) staff proposal to lower the legal size for golden king crab in the Dutch Harbor area from 6.5 inches to 6.0 inches carapace width and to establish the area as a permit fishery.

At its March 1996 meeting, the BOF chose to restructure management of king crabs in the Aleutian Islands. Formerly, the Aleutian Islands king crab populations had been managed using the Adak and Dutch Harbor registration areas that were established for red king crab fisheries. With the decline of red king crab fisheries in the Aleutian Islands during the 1970's and 1980's and increasing importance of the golden king crab fishery, the BOF felt that king crab management areas in the Aleutian Islands should be re-designated to more accurately reflect current golden king crab stock distribution and patterns in fishing effort.

A public proposal submitted at this meeting suggested that the eastern boundary of the Adak area be moved east to include the western portion of the Dutch Harbor area and the productive golden king crab stocks in the Yunaska and Islands of Four Mountains area. This proposal was intended to effectively extend the length of time that that portion of the stock would have been available for harvest. As an alternative to this proposal, the ADF&G recommended moving the boundary of the Adak area west to 174° west longitude, thereby placing some of the most productive golden king crab waters from the Adak area in the Dutch Harbor registration area. Under this scenario, the most productive stock would not be split as it had been in the past, and would be managed as a distinct unit.

The BOF chose to eliminate the Adak and Dutch Harbor areas entirely since they were originally established for red king crab fisheries that no longer sustain harvest and they were not based on current golden king crab stock distribution in the Aleutian Islands. In addition, the BOF directed the ADF&G to manage the golden king crab stocks of the Aleutian Islands east and west of 174° west longitude as two distinct stocks. Under the prior two registration area regime, golden king crabs in the Segum area were harvested at a higher rate than those crabs in the adjacent Yunaska Island and Islands of Four Mountains area. The board directed the department to manage those golden king crabs in the Segum area at the lower exploitation rate present in the east. To implement these goals, the BOF stipulated that a conservative management plan be initiated, and that all vessels registered for the fishery carry an observer on-board for all of their fishing activities.

The initial golden king crab fishery in the new Area O king crab registration area occurred in 1996/97. Compared to prior combined Adak and Dutch Harbor area fisheries, there was reduced effort and harvest during the 1996/97 fishery. Eighteen vessels harvested 5.8 million pounds, down from 28 vessels taking 6.9 million pounds in 1995/96. This reduction in effort is likely due to the departure of vessels for the Bristol Bay red king crab season which re-opened to commercial fishing in 1996 for the first time since 1993. The eastern portion of Area O closed by emergency order on December 25, with a harvest of 3.3 million pounds, while the western portion was open for the entire registration year with a harvest 2.6 million pounds.

During the 1996/97 fishery, harvest rate east of 174° west longitude was six legal crabs per pot pull with an average weight of 4.5 pounds per legal crab. In that portion of Area O west of 174° west longitude, fishery performance was six legal crabs per pot pull with an average weight of 4.2 pounds per legal crab (Table 1). East of 174° west longitude, most fishing effort was concentrated in the area around Yunaska Island and the Islands of Four Mountains with some effort in the Segum and Amukta pass areas. West of 174° west longitude, most harvest occurred between Amchitka pass and Buldir Island. The 1996/97 golden king crab fishery in the Aleutian Islands had an estimated exvessel value of \$12.53 million (Table 2).

In the Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery the long term trend in fishing effort is one of declining number of vessels registered per season and increasing number of pots registered per vessel (Figure 4). With the legalization of long line gear in 1986, it became more common for vessels to specialize in fishing for golden king crabs and these vessels were able to more efficiently operate gear. The long line vessels tended to fish in the Aleutian Islands almost exclusively without venturing into other Bering Sea crab fisheries (ADF&G 1987). The net effect was the formation of a core group of approximately 15 vessels that regularly participated in the fishery with other vessels entering as economics permitted.

1997/98 Fishery

The 1997/98 golden king crab fishery in Area O opened by regulation at 12:00 noon on September 1, with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 5.9 million pounds. A total of 15 vessels registered to harvest the GHL that was split into two components east and west of 174° west longitude. In that portion of Area O east of 174° west longitude, 3.2 million pounds were available and in the area west of 174° west longitude, the GHL was 2.7 million pounds.

Most fishing activity for golden king crabs in the Aleutian Islands was concentrated in that portion of the registration area east of 174° west longitude, primarily between 170° and 173° west longitude (Table 3, Figure 5). A total of 13 vessels harvested 3.5 million pounds in 74 landings resulting in the closure of the area east of 174° west longitude on November 24. In Area O west of 174° west longitude, eight vessels made 160 landings for a total harvest of 2.4 million pounds of golden king crabs (Table 1). The guideline harvest level was not reached in that area, thus the fishery remained open for the entire registration year.

Fishery performance was seven legal crabs per pot pull for both the entire registration area and the eastern and western portions individually. This is the highest combined catch rate since the 1992/93 season and is likely due to a decrease in exvessel price for golden king crab and subsequent decrease in number of pots fished to harvest a similar number of crabs. Average weight of golden king crabs harvested was 4.5 pounds east of 174° west longitude, 4.3 pounds west of 174° west longitude, and 4.4 pounds for the entire Aleutian Islands. These average weights are similar to those documented during the 1996/97 season and represent an increase of 0.1 pounds west of 174° west longitude.

Initially, 11 vessels registered for the fishery, but fishing effort varied as vessels left the Aleutians to participate in Bering Sea crab fisheries. All eight vessels that fished west of 174° west longitude also fished east of 174° west longitude, and seven vessels fished exclusively east of 174° west longitude. This level of effort represents a slight reduction from the 1996/97 season, with most of the reduction in effort occurring in the area west of 174° west longitude.

Three catcher-processors participated in the 1997/98 Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery. Two operated exclusively in that portion of the registration area east of 174° west longitude, while the third operated both east and west of 174° west longitude. This represents an increase of one catcher-processor from the 1996/97 fishery. There were no floating processors operating in the Aleutian Islands during the 1997/98 fishery.

Average exvessel price paid by processors for golden king crab harvested in the Aleutian Islands was \$2.19 per pound which is the lowest price paid per pound since the 1992/93 fishery. The total harvest was worth approximately \$12.54 million, which is comparable to the 1996/97 exvessel value of \$12.53 million (Table 2).

1998/99 Fishery

The 1998/99 Aleutian Islands (Area O) golden king crab fishery opened by regulation at 12:00 noon, September 1. The 1998/99 guideline harvest level was reduced from 5.9 million pounds to 5.7 million pounds. Again, the GHL was split east and west of 174° west longitude; 3.0 million pounds were allocated for harvest east of 174° west longitude and the remaining 2.7 million pounds was allocated to the western portion of the management area. The 1997 ADF&G Aleutian Islands golden king crab survey (Blau et al. 1998) indicated that a 200,000 pounds GHL reduction was necessary in order to comply with the overfishing definition specified in the current draft of Amendment 7 to the Fishery Management Plan for the king and tanner crab fisheries of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (NPFMC 1998).

A total of 16 vessels including two catcher-processors registered for the 1998/99 Area O golden king crab fishery, with 14 vessels fishing in that portion of the registration area east of 174° west longitude. In the eastern portion of the registration area, most fishing effort occurred in the vicinity of Segum and Amukta passes and in the Yunaska Island and Islands of Four Mountains areas. Area O east of 174° west longitude closed to commercial fishing for golden king crabs at 12:00 noon, November 7 when 3.25 million pounds of golden king crabs had been harvested. Closure of the 1998/99 fishery in this portion of the Aleutian Islands occurred approximately two weeks earlier than during the 1997/98 fishery.

The golden king crab fishery in the eastern Aleutian Islands had an approximate exvessel value of \$5.92 million. Fishery performance was 8.7 legal crab per pot pull and average weight of golden king crabs harvested was 4.4 (Table 4). That portion of the Aleutian Islands west of 174° west longitude is open to commercial fishing for golden king crabs until further notice and harvest information is confidential at this time.

Stock Status

The ADF&G surveyed a small portion of the golden king crab habitat in the Aleutian Islands during the summer of 1997. Prior to that, the ADF&G performed the only previous survey of this area in 1991 (Blau and Pengilly 1994). Only a small portion of the area in which golden king crabs are commercially important is currently surveyed. Mark-recapture data from the 1997 survey suggested that the commercial fishery was annually removing approximately 17% to 21% of the mature male crabs present in the area surveyed. The current draft of Amendment 7 to the Federal Management Plan for King and Tanner Crabs in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands specifies that the golden king crab stock in the Aleutian Islands is considered overfished when F exceeds 0.2 (NPFMC 1998). A fishing rate of $F=0.2$ corresponds to a mature male removal rate of approximately 18%. During the 1997/98 season, the GHLL of 3.2 million pounds in the area east of 174° west longitude was exceeded by approximately 300,000 pounds, so to maintain a long term average harvest at 3.2 million pounds, the 1998/99 GHLL in this area was reduced to 3.0 million pounds (D. Pengilly, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Kodiak, personal communication).

The Aleutian Islands golden king crab population is believed to be healthy despite harvest rates that are at or near the allowable maximum since much recruitment occurs at depths greater than those currently fished. Additionally, the area currently surveyed receives more fishing pressure than many other areas in the entire Aleutian Islands, so golden king crabs in other less heavily fished locales are likely being harvested at rates lower than those reported here. In order to operate their gear more efficiently fishers tend to utilize the shallowest waters in which crabs may be found in abundance. Distribution of legal males extends to depths greater than those fished, so the entire population of legal males is probably not fully exploited. Currently, the ADF&G intends to survey the area around Amukta and Yunaska Islands every three years, with the next survey scheduled for the summer of 2000.

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Table 1. Aleutian Islands golden king crab commercial fishery data, 1981/82-1997/98 seasons.

Season	Location	Number of		Crabs ^b	Harvest ^{b,c}	Pots pulled	CPUE ^d	Percent oldshell	Average		Deadloss
		Vessels ^a	Landings						Weight ^b	Carapace Length ^e	
1981/82	East of 172° W.	6	16	22,666	115,715	2,906	8	3.8	5.1	158.1	8,752
	West of 172° W.	14	76	217,700	1,194,046	24,627	9	9.5	5.5	159.6	22,064
	TOTAL		92	240,458	1,319,761	27,533	9		5.4		30,816
1982/83	East of 172° W.	49	136	227,471	1,184,971	29,369	8	3.9	5.2	158.1	47,479
	West of 172° W.	99	501	1,509,001	8,006,274	150,103	10	7.6	5.3	158.2	220,743
	TOTAL		637	1,737,109	9,191,245	179,472	10		5.3		268,222
1983/84	East of 172° W.	47	132	238,353	1,810,973	29,595	8	NA	7.6	NA	45,268
	West of 172° W.	157	1,002	1,534,909	8,128,029	226,798	7	12.2	5.3	NA	171,021
	TOTAL		1,134	1,773,262	9,939,002	256,393	7		5.6		186,289
1984/85	East of 171° W.	13	67	327,440	1,521,142 ^f	24,044	14	NA	4.6	161.2	70,362
	West of 171° W.	38	85	643,597	3,180,095	64,777	10	12.5	4.9	156.7	125,073
	TOTAL		152	971,274	4,701,237	88,821	11		4.8		195,435
1985/86	East of 171° W.	13	67	410,977	1,968,213	34,287	12	16.0	4.7	155.7	38,663
	West of 171° W.	49	386	2,052,048	11,124,759	202,401	10	13.7	5.4	151.3	5,304
	TOTAL		453	2,463,025	13,092,972	236,688	10		5.3		43,967
1986/87	East of 171° W.	17	71	400,389	1,869,180	37,585	11	NA	4.7	NA	9,510
	West of 171° W.	62	525	2,923,947	12,798,004	392,185	7	30.9	4.4	149.5	276,736
	TOTAL		596	3,324,336	14,667,184	429,770	8		4.4		286,246
1987/88	East of 171° W.	22	77	299,734	1,383,198	43,017	7	25.0	4.6	149.6	24,210
	West of 171° W.	46	386	1,908,989	8,001,177	267,705	7	8.3	4.2	146.9	165,415
	TOTAL		463	2,208,723	9,324,375	310,722	7		4.2		189,625

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Table 1. (Page 2 of 3)

Season	Location	Number of		Crabs ^b	Harvest ^{b,c}	Pots pulled	CPUE ^d	Percent oldshell	Average		Deadloss
		Vessels ^a	Landings						Weight ^b	Carapace length ^e	
1988/89	East of 171° W.	21	57	323,695	1,545,113	40,869	8	23.0	4.8	154.3	22,960
	West of 171° W.	74	455	2,165,508	9,080,196	280,732	8	8.8	4.2	149.1	122,251
	TOTAL		512	2,489,203	10,625,309	321,604	8		4.3		145,211
1989/90	East of 171° W.	13	70	424,067	1,852,249	43,345	10	30.0	4.4	150.9	17,421
	West of 171° W.	64	505	2,520,786	10,162,400	324,153	8	4.7	4.0	148.5	100,724
	TOTAL		575	2,944,853	12,014,649	367,498	8		4.1		118,145
1990/91	East of 171° W.	16	58	384,885	1,718,848	54,618	7	3.0	4.3	147.5	42,800
	West of 171° W.	13	167	1,312,116	5,250,687 ^g	160,960	8	8.5	4.0	144.5	176,583
	TOTAL	24	235	1,697,001	6,969,535	214,578	8		4.1		219,383
1991/92	East of 171° W.	11	50	335,647	1,447,732	40,604	8	4.0	4.3	147.9	45,100
	West of 171° W.	16	206	1,511,751	6,254,409	192,949	8	5.6	4.1	144.7	96,848
	TOTAL	20	256	1,847,398	7,702,141	233,553	8		4.2		141,948
1992/93	East of 171° W.	10	44	330,159	1,375,048	37,718	9	4.2	4.1	147.8	37,200
	West of 171° W.	18	130	1,198,169	4,916,149	165,503	7	6.5	4.1	147.0	104,215
	TOTAL	22	174	1,528,328	6,291,197	203,221	8		4.1		141,415
1993/94	East of 171° W.	4	14	217,788	915,460	22,490	10	1.1	4.2	149.1	7,324
	West of 171° W.	21	147	1,102,541	4,635,683	212,164	5	4.6	4.2	147.8	165,358
	TOTAL	21	161	1,320,329	5,551,143	234,654	6		4.2		172,682
1994/95	East of 171° W.	14	45	384,353	1,750,267	67,537	6	1.0	4.6	147.6	29,908
	West of 171° W.	34	247	1,539,866	6,378,030	319,006	5	7.1	4.1	149.5	242,065
	TOTAL	35	292	1,924,219	8,128,297	386,543	5		4.2		271,973
1995/96	East of 171° W.	17	42	431,867	1,993,980	65,030	7	5.3	4.6	149.6	14,676
	West of 171° W.	25	139	1,134,274	4,896,926	226,463	5	7.1	4.2	147.3	338,223
	TOTAL	28	181	1,566,141	6,890,906	291,493	5		4.4		352,899

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Table 1. (Page 3 of 3)

Season	Location	Number of		Crabs ^b	Harvest ^{b,c}	Pots pulled	CPUE ^d	Percent oldshell	Average		Deadloss
		Vessels ^a	Landings						Weight ^b	Carapace length ^e	
1996/97	East of 174° W.	14	70	725,452	3,262,516	113,460	6		4.5		156,857
	West of 174° W.	13	100	618,498	2,591,720	100,340	6		4.2		78,973
	TOTAL	18	170	1,343,950	5,854,236	213,800	6	3.3	4.4	147.0	235,830
1997/98	East of 174° W.	13	74	780,609	3,501,054	106,403	7		4.5		131,480
	West of 174° W.	8	160	569,550	2,444,628	86,811	7		4.3		79,525
	TOTAL	15	234	1,350,159	5,945,682	193,214	7	5.0	4.4	147.3	211,005

^aMany vessels fished both east and west of 174W, thus total number of vessels reflects registrations for entire Aleutian Islands.

^bDeadloss included.

^cIn pounds.

^dNumber of legal crabs per pot pull.

^eIn millimeters.

^fSix inch permit season opened July 1.

^gPartial closure August 7.

Table 2. Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery economic performance, 1981/82-1997/98 seasons.

Year		Season Total ^a	Number of		Number of Pots		Value		Season Length	
			Vessels	Landings	Registered	Pulled	Exvessel ^b	Total ^c	Days	Dates
1981/82	East of 172° W.	0.1	6	16	0	2,906	\$2.05	\$0.22	75	11/01-01/15
	West of 172° W.	1.2	14	76	2,647	24,627	\$2.06	\$2.41	227	11/01-06/15
	Total	1.3		92	2,647	27,533	\$2.06	\$2.63		
1982/83	East of 172° W.	1.1	49	136	NA	29,369	\$3.00	\$3.41	105	11/01-02/15
	West of 172° W.	7.8	99	501	13,111	150,103	\$3.01	\$23.43	166	11/01-04/15
	Total	8.9		637	13,111	179,472	\$3.01	\$26.85		
1983/84	East of 172° W.	1.8	47	132	4,514	29,595	\$3.05	\$5.38	105	11/01-02/15
	West of 172° W.	8.0	157	1,002	17,406	226,798	\$2.92	\$23.23	157	11/10-04/15
	Total	9.7		1,134	21,920	256,393	\$2.94	\$28.62		
1984/85	East of 171° W.	1.4	13	67	1,394	24,044	\$1.35	\$1.96	229	07/01-02/15
	West of 171° W.	3.1	38	85	5,270	64,777	\$2.00	\$6.11	240	11/10-07/08
	Total	4.5		152	6,664	88,821	\$1.79	\$8.07		
1985/86	East of 171° W.	1.9	13	67	1,479	34,287	\$2.00	\$3.86	121	07/01-10/31
	West of 171° W.	11.1	49	386	7,057	202,401	\$2.50	\$27.80	288	11/01-08/15
	Total	13.0		453	8,536	236,688	\$2.43	\$31.66		
1986/87	East of 171° W.	1.9	17	71	1,575	37,585	\$2.85	\$5.30	182	07/01-12/31
	West of 171° W.	12.5	62	525	12,958	392,185	\$3.00	\$37.56	288	11/01-08/15
	Total	14.4		596	14,533	429,770	\$2.98	\$42.86		
1987/88	East of 171° W.	1.4	22	77	3,591	43,017	\$2.85	\$3.87	62	07/01-09/02
	West of 171° W.	7.8	46	386	10,687	267,705	\$3.00	\$23.51	289	11/01-08/15
	Total	9.2		463	14,278	310,722	\$2.98	\$27.38		
1988/89	East of 171° W.	1.5	21	57	4,215	40,869	\$3.00	\$4.57	93	09/01-12/04
	West of 171° W.	9.0	74	455	23,627	280,732	\$3.20	\$28.66	288	11/01-08/15
	Total	10.5		512	27,842	321,601	\$3.17	\$33.23		

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Table 2. (Page 2 of3)

Year		Season Total ^a	Number of		Number of Pots		Value		Season Length	
			Vessels	Landings	Registered	Pulled	Exvessel ^b	Total ^c	Days	Dates
11	1989/90 East of 171° W.	1.8	13	70	5,635	43,345	\$3.50	\$6.42	104	09/01-12/15
	West of 171° W.	10.1	64	505	14,724	324,153	\$3.00	\$30.18	288	11/01-08/15
	Total	11.9		575	20,359	367,498	\$3.08	\$36.61		
	1990/91 East of 171° W.	1.7	16	58	5,225	54,618	\$3.00	\$5.03	68	09/01-11/09
	West of 171° W.	5.1	13	167	7,380	160,960	\$3.00	\$15.22	288	11/01-08/15
	Total	6.7	24	235	12,605	215,578	\$3.00	\$20.25		
	1991/92 East of 171° W.	1.4	11	50	3,760	40,604	\$2.00	\$2.81	74	09/01-11/15
	West of 171° W.	6.2	16	206	7,635e	192,949	\$2.50	\$15.39	289	11/01-08/15
	Total	7.6	20	256	3,760	233,553	\$2.41	\$18.20		
	1992/93 East of 171° W.	1.3	10	44	4,222	37,718	\$2.50	\$3.30	76	09/01-11/17
	West of 171° W.	4.8	18	130	8,236e	165,503	\$2.05	\$9.86	288	11/01-08/15
	Total	6.1	22	174	4,222	203,221	\$2.15	\$13.16		
	1993/94 East of 171° W.	0.9	4	14	2,334	22,490	\$2.15	\$1.95	212	09/01-03/31
	West of 171° W.	4.5	21	147	11,970	212,164	\$2.50	\$11.18	288	11/01-08/15
	Total	5.4	21	161	14,304	234,654	\$2.44	\$13.13		
	1994/95 East of 171° W.	1.7	14	45	7,378	67,537	\$4.00	\$6.88	57	09/01-10/28
	West of 171° W.	6.1	34	247	15,604	319,006	\$3.33	\$20.43	288	11/01-08/15
	Total	7.9	35	292	22,982	386,543	\$3.48	\$27.31		
	1995/96 East of 171° W.	2.0	17	42	10,325	65,030	\$2.60	\$5.15	38	09/01-10/09
	West of 171° W.	4.6	25	139	14,213	226,463	\$2.10	\$9.57	289	11/01-08/15
	Total	6.5	28	181	24,538	291,493	\$2.25	\$14.72		
	1996/97 East of 174° W.	3.1	14	70	NA	107,397	\$2.23	\$6.93	115	09/01-12/25
	West of 174° W.	2.5	13	100	NA	102,627	\$2.23	\$5.60	365	09/01-08/31
	Total	5.6	18	170	11,080	210,024	\$2.23	\$12.53		

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Table 2. (Page 3 of 3)

Year		Season Total ^a	Number of		Number of Pots		Value		Season Length	
			Vessels	Landings	Registered	Pulled	Exvessel ^b	Total ^c	Days	Dates
1997/98	East of 174° W.	3.5	13	74	10,100	106,403	\$2.25	\$7.58	84	09/01-11/24
	West of 174° W.	2.4	8	160	4,690	86,811	\$2.10	\$4.96	365	09/01-08/31
	Total	5.9	15	234	10,100	193,214	\$2.19	\$12.54		

^aIn millions of pounds.^bAverage price per pound.^cIn millions of dollars.

Table 3. Aleutian Islands golden king crab catch by statistical area, 1997/98 season.

	Geographic vicinity	Statistical area	Number of		Harvest ^{a,b}	Pots pulled	Average		Deadloss
			Landings	Crab ^a			CPUE ^c	Weight ^b	
13	Islands of four mts.	685231	3	2,439	11,128	660	4	4.6	672
		685303	4	4,481	21,550	1,734	3	4.8	355
		685304	7	14,404	69,205	5,498	3	4.8	1,296
		695200	9	48,257	225,183	5,360	9	4.7	12,020
		695232	11	35,658	162,332	4,732	8	4.6	11,832
		695301	12	32,688	142,666	3,202	10	4.4	4,373
	Yunaska	695302	7	12,760	54,045	1,076	12	4.3	3,152
		705200	32	93,639	424,457	15,561	6	4.5	13,870
		705232	35	102,305	449,962	13,316	8	4.4	19,366
		705233	3	564	2,370	566	1	4.2	63
		705300	12	29,973	130,615	3,855	8	4.4	7,647
	Amukta Pass	715201	9	7,787	34,897	930	8	4.5	2,615
		715202	28	154,586	712,807	15,520	10	4.6	23,508
		715231	28	42,001	186,160	6,299	7	4.4	11,667
	Seguam Pass	715232	16	35,121	157,720	4,026	9	4.5	6,284
		725201	17	75,713	330,472	14,505	5	4.4	3,674
		725203	7	12,565	53,676	2,391	5	4.3	630
	Amlia	725230	13	29,911	130,236	2,947	10	4.4	2,886
		735201	7	7,979	33,533	966	8	4.2	1,328
		735230	6	24,923	110,043	1,587	16	4.4	3,446
		745131	5	3,056	15,288	1,542	2	5.0	2,813
		745206	3	571	2,718	247	2	4.8	75
		755201	6	1,596	7,623	548	3	4.8	269
		755202	4	683	3,334	233	3	4.9	112
		755204	3	766	3,716	182	4	4.9	113
		765100	3	1,622	7,966	336	5	4.9	396

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Table 3. (Page 2 of 3)

Geographic vicinity	Statistical area	Number of		Harvest ^{a,b}	Pots pulled	Average		Deadloss
		Landings	Crab ^a			CPUE ^c	Weight ^b	
Adak	765132	5	2,107	9,666	884	2	4.6	65
	765135	11	3,796	18,547	847	4	4.9	1,308
	765201	15	4,654	23,082	1,665	3	5.0	1,277
	765202	12	3,538	17,158	1,410	3	4.8	828
	765203	7	1,318	6,156	489	3	4.7	125
	775131	12	14,757	69,468	3,485	4	4.7	2,312
	775132	4	828	3,697	242	3	4.5	186
	775133	8	6,382	31,010	969	7	4.9	1,410
	775134	4	2,386	10,144	471	5	4.3	353
	775136	10	6,435	29,935	1,289	3	4.7	1,317
Tanaga	785101	6	1,354	5,525	222	6	4.1	148
	785102	18	45,852	189,279	5,792	8	4.0	10,683
	785103	9	4,591	18,382	634	7	4.0	700
	785131	21	55,103	224,904	8,290	7	4.1	13,493
	785132	13	10,529	44,018	1,345	8	4.2	2,526
	785134	11	5,240	22,242	687	8	4.2	1,219
	785135	10	11,183	45,448	1,295	9	4.1	2,355
	795101	9	7,182	29,507	624	12	4.1	1,842
	795102	15	23,170	95,955	2,115	11	4.1	5,061
	795131	10	7,379	29,801	959	8	4.0	2,092
Semisopochnoi	795132	17	26,672	108,187	2,778	10	4.1	5,859
	795200	16	4,698	19,622	663	7	4.2	16
	805103	21	8,690	36,266	1,367	6	4.2	231
	805131	6	1,569	6,585	300	5	4.2	71
	805132	31	33,680	139,714	4,317	8	4.1	1,342
	805201	24	19,168	79,939	2,213	9	4.2	351

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Table 3. (Page 3 of 3)

Geographic vicinity	Statistical area	Number of		Harvest ^{a,b}	Pots pulled	Average		Deadloss
		Landings	Crab ^a			CPUE ^c	Weight ^b	
Kiska	815100	15	4,068	17,249	803	5	4.2	25
	805131	16	11,121	45,968	1,731	6	4.1	53
	815132	9	3,755	14,881	406	9	4.0	228
	815202	3	437	1,843	90	5	4.2	0
	825132	18	12,092	50,702	1,231	10	4.2	20
	825201	19	11,043	44,995	1,524	7	4.1	79
	825202	13	5,082	20,833	511	10	4.1	21
	825203	4	1,277	5,238	168	8	4.1	0
	835130	21	20,949	88,012	2,192	10	4.0	71
	835200	28	19,051	81,254	3,138	6	4.3	NA
Buldir	845130	23	30,850	131,756	3,110	10	4.3	635
	845202	21	63,034	269,696	8,537	7	4.3	2,647
	855200	17	19,739	83,721	3,156	6	4.2	738
	855231	4	2,411	10,329	245	10	4.3	63
Agattu	865203	4	1,328	5,473	744	2	4.1	67
Attu	875232	3	14,395	70,623	3,049	5	5.0	4,472
	Other	47	41,218	205,170	9,408	4	5.0	10,254
Total		234	1,350,159	5,945,682	193,214	7	4.4	211,005

^aDeadloss included.^bIn pounds.^cNumber of legal crabs per pot pull.

Table 4. Aleutian Islands commercial golden king crab fishery preliminary data, 1998/99 season.

Area	Nuner of			Harvest ^{a,b}	Pots pulled	Average		Deadloss ^b
	Vessels	Landings	Crabs ^a			Weight ^b	CPUE ^c	
East of 174° W.	14	55	740,011	3,247,863	83,378	4.4	9	82,113
West of 174° W.				FISHERY IN PROGRESS				

^aDeadloss included.

^bIn pounds.

^cNumber of legal crabs per pot pull.

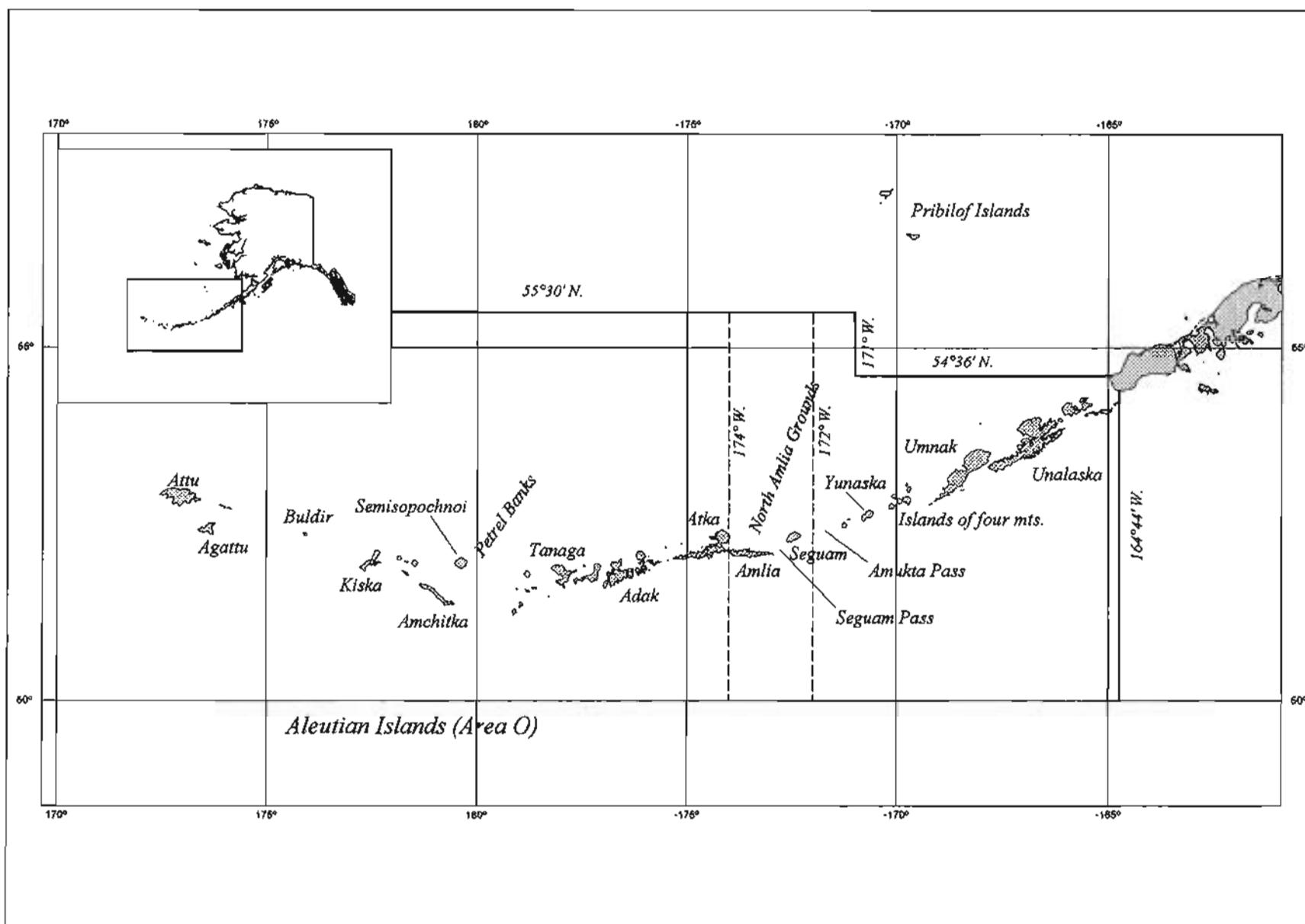


Figure 1. Aleutian Islands, king crab registration Area O.

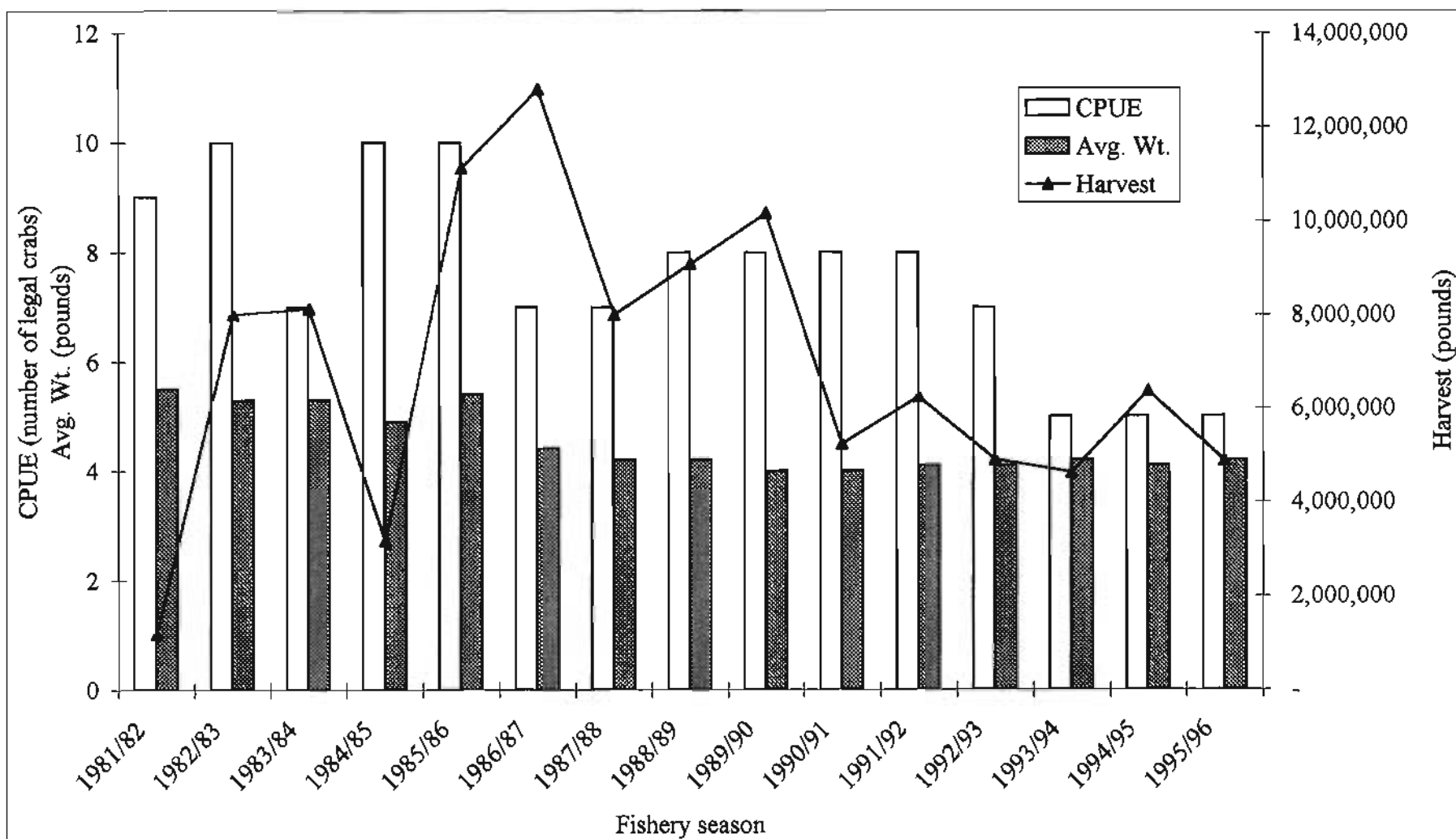


Figure 2. Adak area golden king crab fishery harvest, fishery performance and average weight, 1981/82-1995/96 seasons.

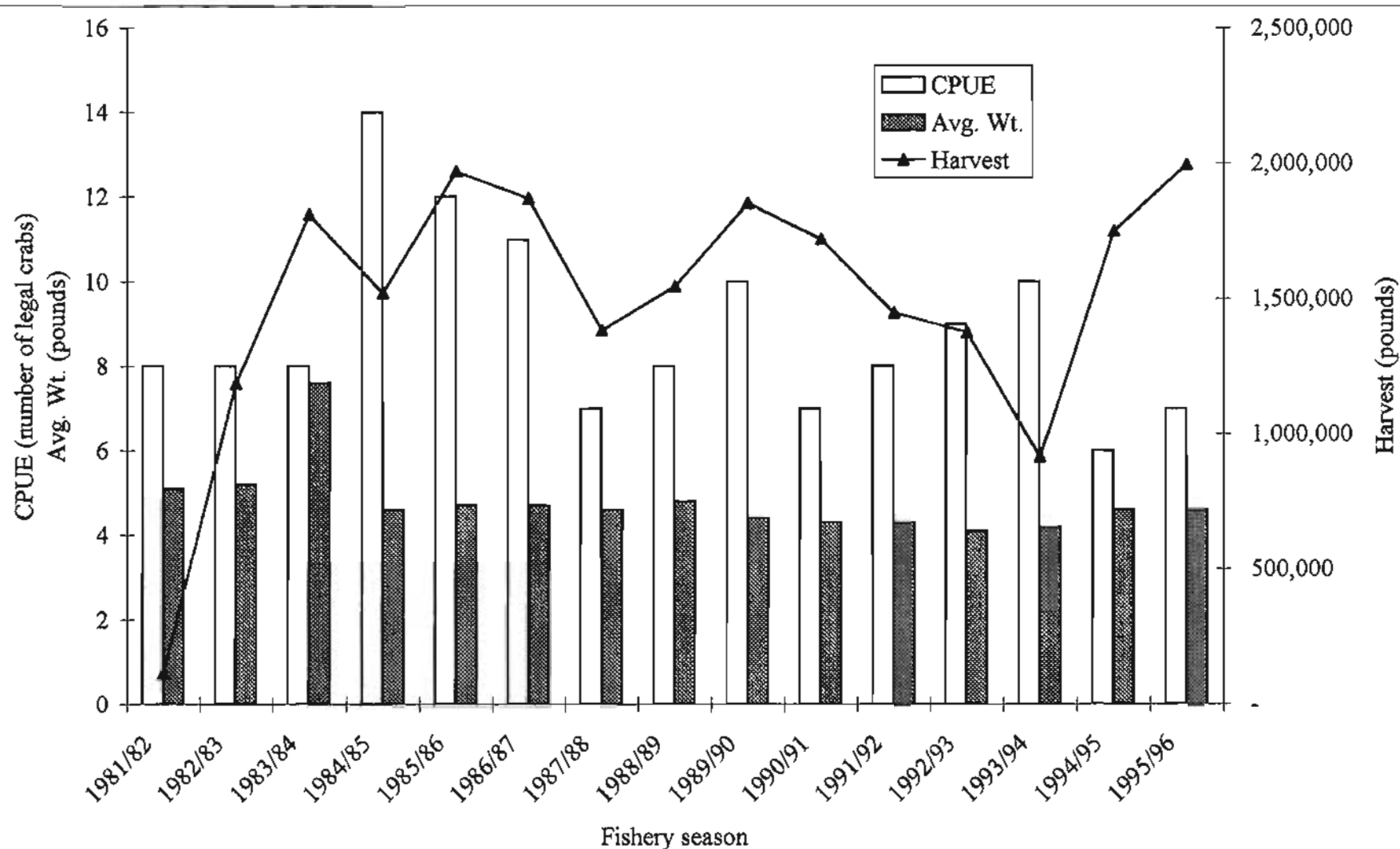


Figure 3. Dutch Harbor area golden king crab fishery harvest, fishery performance and average weight, 1981/82-1995/96 seasons.

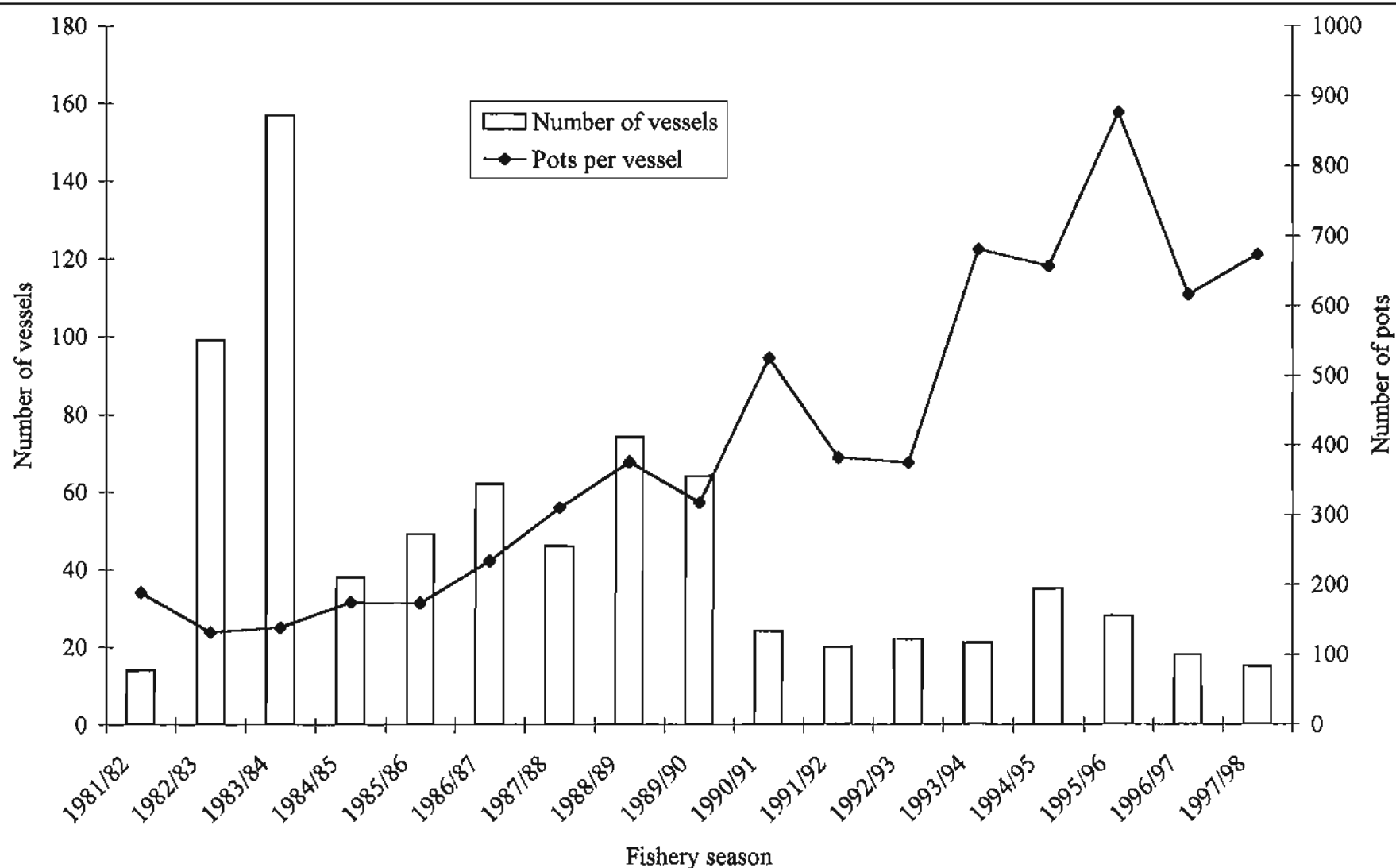


Figure 4. Number of vessels registered and number of pots per vessel, Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery, 1981/82 to 1997/98 seasons.

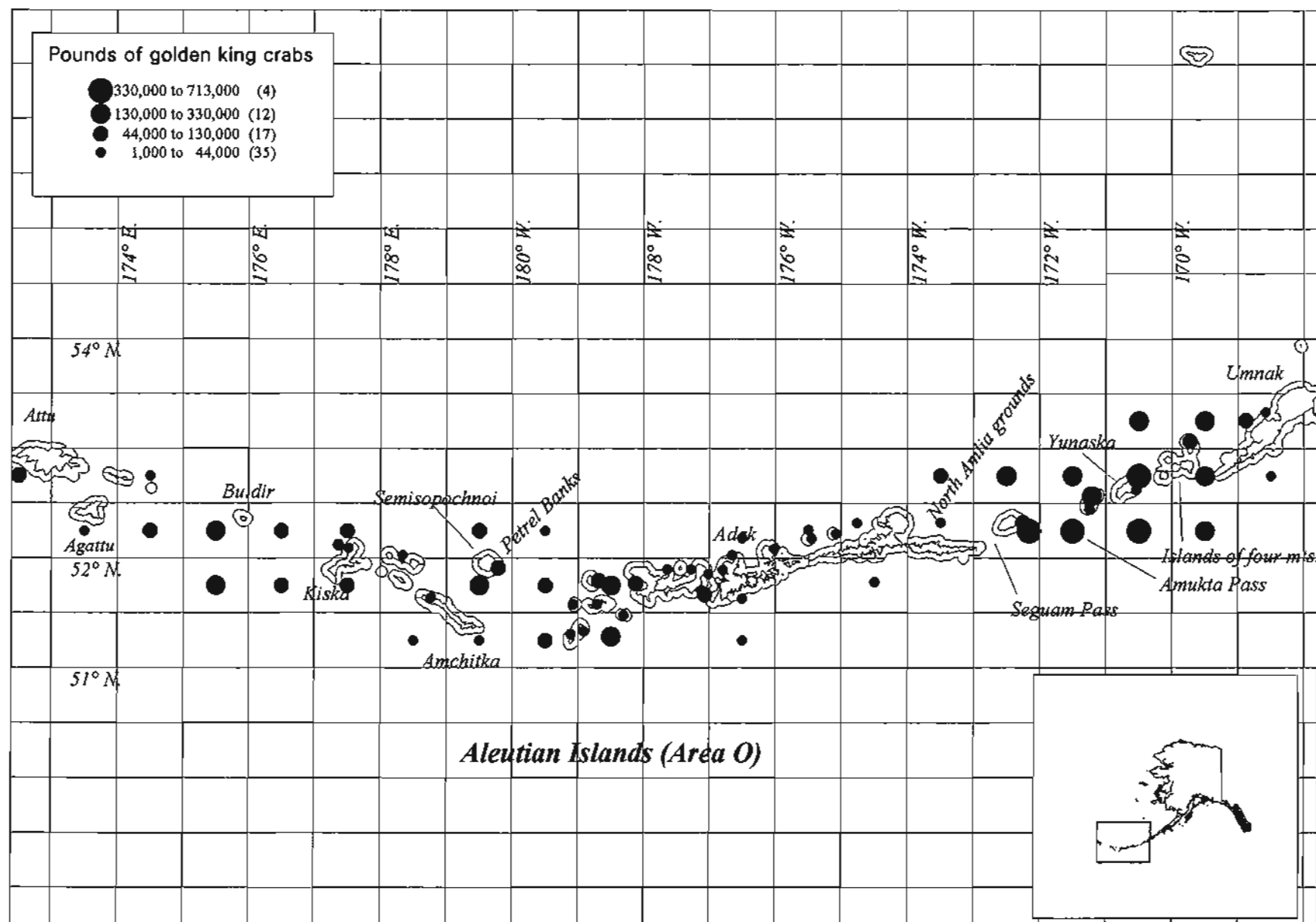


Figure 5. Distribution of Aleutian Islands golden king crab harvest, 1997/98 season.

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